

13 November 1961

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES CHAIRED BY (OCI) REPRESENTATIVE

1. Name of Committee

Ad Hoc Working Group of the USIB on the Arab-Israeli Situation [ ] chairman)

2. Authority for Establishment

Request from Department of State through IAC March 1956. Its continuation was approved by USIB, the successors of IAC, on 7 July 1959. On 16 February 1960 USIB reviewed the activity of the Ad Hoc Working Group and agreed that the Group "should continue to function and produce such reports periodically until such time as a board member wished to raise the question for discussion."

3. Roster of Committee Staff

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>FULL OR PART TIME</u>
1.	[ ]	GS-12	Part time (see below)
2.		GS-5	Part time (see below)
3.		GS-7	Part time (see below)

4. Budget: None

5. Continue indefinitely (give short justification)

The only business of the Working Group is to compile a report, issued in about 275 copies, which recipients generally seem to feel provides a useful summary of political and military developments related to the Palestine problem. The Group normally meets two or three times a year (the next meeting is scheduled for 6 December 1961) for a session of three or four hours. It has no staff of its own; OCI provides facilities for the reproduction of the report, and an OCI intelligence officer usually devotes the better part of a day or two to overseeing the final stages of this process. If the Group did not compile the report, individual agencies would be forced to do something similar for their own needs with a consequent duplication of effort, without the advantage of an agreed upon statement. We therefore recommend that the Group be continued indefinitely as long as the basic elements of the Palestine problem remain.